

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 26, 1959

Mr. Sawyer McA. Mosser  
The American Numismatic Society  
Broadway at 156th Street  
New York 32, New York

Dear Mr. Mosser:

Thank you for your nice letter of October 20, 1959, with respect to my talk on November 14, 1959.

I have taken all of the 35 mm. slides which I propose to use and if they come out satisfactory it will not be necessary for you to help me in that respect. I do want you to have available a slide projector and some one to operate that projector. Will you let me know if such a projector will be available.

As to the material which will be put on exhibition, I definitely would like to have exhibited the Machin's Mills contracts, the original of which you have in your library. It is indexed under "Atlee".

I would also like to have on exhibit:

Vermonts - Ryder 1, 13, 25 and 31

Any Immune Columbia pieces you have

Connecticuts - 1-A, 3-G and 52-G of 1787

2-D, 16-1-I, 8-I of 1788

Any imitation British halfpence dated 1776, 1778, 1781, 1784, 1785, 1787, 1788; (all bearing these dates are imitation).

All Nova Eboracs, New York Excelsiors, Clinton and Liber Natus pieces.

Your 1785 Eagle copper and any other of the Confederatio series.

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION  
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION  
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

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October 26, 1959

Mr. Sawyer McA. Mosser  
The American Numismatic Society

If you let me know what coins you have available in this group I will appreciate it. I can then consider whether additions should be made.

Please let me know what time the lecture will commence.

I have a number of other matters I want to talk over with you when I arrive.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

By 

Eric P. Newman, President

EPN/atb



CABLE ADDRESS  
"NUMISMA" NEW YORK



TELEPHONE  
AUDUBON 6-3030

## THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)

BROADWAY BETWEEN 155<sup>TH</sup> AND 156<sup>TH</sup> STS.

NEW YORK 32, N.Y.

October 30, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Many thanks for your letter of October 26th, concerning my questions in regard to your talk on November 14th.

We will, of course, have our projector set up with its attachments for use of 35mm slides, and also have someone on hand to operate it.

Of the items you suggested for exhibit we have the following:

*Machins Contracts*

Vermonts - Ryder 1, 13, 25 and 31

*Not Immune*

5 Immune Columbia pieces

Connecticuts - 1-A, 3-G, 52-G of 1787

*16-D*

2-D of 1788 (do not have 16-I or 8-I.)  
We have 8-K and several other 16 obv.

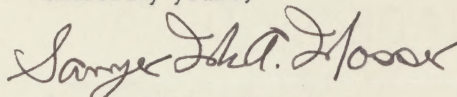
Imitation British halfpence dated 1776, 1778, 1781,  
1787, 1788

Nova Eboracs, New York Excelsiors and Liber Natus  
pieces (we have a copy only of the Clinton)

1785 Eagle copper and of the Confederatio weries, one  
geniune and two copies.

The meeting will begin at 3 P. M. There will be some business  
to be disposed of before the lecture begins, but this will not take long.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sawyer McA. Mosser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sawyer" being the most prominent.

Sawyer McA. Mosser  
Secretary

SMM:RMg



THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
BROADWAY BETWEEN 155th and 156th STREETS  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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A regular meeting of the Society will be held  
Saturday, November 14, 1959 at 3:00 P.M.

There will be an illustrated address on  
MACHIN'S MILLS COINAGE AND OTHER NEW YORK COPPERS

BY ERIC P. NEWMAN

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND

SAWYER MCA. MOSSER, *Secretary*

ORDER OF SLIDES (ANS LECTURE 11/14/59)

George III - Regular & Error  
George III - Imitation & Genuine Obv.  
George III - Imitation & Genuine Rev.  
1771 Imitation & Gen. obv.  
1771 Imitation & Gen. rev.  
1775 Irish Imitation & Gen.  
1781 & 1785 Reverse  
Evasion obverse  
Evasion obverse  
Evasion Reverse  
100 mill eye  
100 mill U.S.  
Nova 1783, 1785  
Nova U.S.  
Immune-Nova  
Vermont-Immune  
George III - Immune  
Immunis - Shield  
Immunis - 1786  
Immunis - Reverse  
Immunis - Confed.  
Inimica Confed.  
1784 Rev.& Conn. Rev.  
1784 Obv.  
Vermont Ryder 13  
Conn. G - Ryder 13  
Machin reverses  
1778  
Compare 1778 & 1787  
Machins obverses  
Compare 1787 & 3 obverses  
Ryder 31  
Conn 1-I  
1776 Fairfield  
Vt. 25 - 1776 Machins  
Long nose - flat date  
Long nose - curved date  
1788  
George III-D  
Conn. 2-D  
16(1)-D  
1771 Gen.& Imit. obv.  
1771 Gen.& Imit. Rev.  
Nova Eborac  
Nova Eborac big & small obv.  
Nova Eborac big & small rev.  
Non Vi obv.  
Non Vi rev.  
Liber - Geo. III  
Liber - Arms  
Liber - Eagle  
Clinton  
Excelsior  
Excelsior transposed arrows



ORDER OF SLIDES (ANS LECTURE 11/14/59)

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George III - Imitation & Genuine Obv.  
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1771 Imitation & Gen. obv.  
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1781 & 1785 Reverse  
Evasion obverse  
Evasion obverse  
Evasion Reverse  
100 mill eye  
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Nova 1783, 1785  
Nova U.S.  
Immune-Nova  
Vermont-Immune  
George III - Immune  
Immunis - Shield  
Immunis - 1786  
Immunis - Reverse  
Immunis - Confed.  
Inimica Confed.  
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1784 Obv.  
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Nova Eborac  
Nova Eborac big & small obv.  
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Non Vi obv.  
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Liber - Geo. III  
Liber - Arms  
Liber - Eagle  
Clinton  
Excelsior  
Excelsior transposed arrows

INTRODUCTION

PROGRAM IS UNREHEARSED. <sup>WISH</sup> ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED <sup>WERE IN SEALED</sup> ~~NOT GIVEN~~  
~~ENVELOPES~~ <sup>OF A.N.S.</sup> ~~IN VAULTS~~ ~~BY THE SOCIETY.~~

EXPERT: MAN FROM OUT OF TOWN WITH SLIDES

~~BRINGING COALS TO NEWCASTLE TO TALK ABOUT N.Y.~~

WYLLYS BETTS APRIL 8, 1886 LECTURED HERE ON CTF  $\frac{1}{2}$ D AND IF ANY OF YOU WERE

PRESENT PLEASE EXCUSE ANY POSSIBLE REPETITION

~~BRINGING COALS TO NEWCASTLE TO TALK ABOUT MINT HEAR NEWBURGH, NEW YORK~~

MYSTERY OF MACHINS MILLS COINAGE FASCINATED ME FOR 10 YEARS

ORANGE LAKE RESORT AREA IN 1787 WAS DIFFERENT

OPERATIONS IN SECRET - TOWNSFOLK SUSPICIOUS

MASKS TO FREIGHTEN BOYS FISHING

UNEARTHLY NOISES AT NIGHT. DEVIL WORKS THERE

MURDERERS CREEK WAS A MOST APROPOS NAME

BACKGROUND OF COPPERS



ENGLISH COPPER COUNTERFEITING

COPPER COINS IN ENGLAND BEGAN 1672 UNDER CHARLES II  
UNDER GEORGE II CTF. BEGAN. NO CTF. LAW EXCEPT GOLD & SILVER  
HIGH COST OF MANUFACTURE PROPORTIONATE TO VALUE  
KING PROFITED OR COUNTERFEITER DID BUT PEOPLE DID NOT SUFFER  
1742 ACT MADE UTTERER OF FALSE COIN FELONY. COPPER NOT CONSIDERED COIN.  
PRIVATE COINING OF COPPER - TWO YEAR PENALTY  
IN 1751 KING ORDERED ENFORCEMENT - EVASIONS FIRST APPEAR  
IN 1753 OVER 40% CTF. COPPER IN ENGLAND  
REFUSAL TO ACCEPT AND SENT OVER TO AMERICA  
TURNPIKE KEEPERS REFUSED COIN ONE END AND GAVE IT IN CHANGE ON OTHER.  
DISTRIBUTED THROUGH SMASHERS, SHOPKEEPERS, ETC.  
ROYAL COINAGE AT TOWER 1770-75  
1771 LAW TO PROTECT GEORGE III COPPERS MADE IT FELONY TO CTF. OR TO DEAL  
IN AT LOWER RATE. PUBLIC PROTECTED.  
EVASIONS NOW COME IN QUANTITY. EVASION - IMITATION - COUNTERFEIT  
THIS WRECKED ENFORCEMENT OF CTF. COPPERS BECAUSE EVASIONS WERE EXEMPT.  
EACH DATE FROM 1770 TO 1775 MORE AND MORE CTFs. 250 VARIETIES OF CTF. 1775  
BY 1782 TOLL GATES RECD. 2/3 IN CTF.  
SHIPMENT TO AMERICA AT CLOSE OF WAR IN 1783.  
NO PACKET ARRIVES WITHOUT SOME HUNDRED WT. OF BASE 1/2D  
MAY 13, 1785 REPORT TO CONT. CONG. SAYS WE GIVE 6 TIMES THE VALUE FOR COPPER  
COIN AND U.S. LOST \$30,000 IN ONE YEAR, ENOUGH TO BUILD A MINT.  
PRIMARY  
BIRMINGHAM ~~THE~~ SOURCE OF COINAGE  
COLLAPSE OF COPPER CIRCULATION IN 1789

COPPERS IN NEW YORK

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1733 INTRODUCED INTO CIRCULATION

12/16/1737 ACT SAYS 1/2d & 1/4d CIRCULATE OVER INTRINSIC VALUE

ACT PROHIBITS IMPORTATION OF COPPERS OVER 10 SH PER PERSON

ALL GENUINE. NO COUNTERFEIT PROBLEM

REASON FOR ACT: ENGLISH HALFPENNY CIRCULATED FOR 1 PENNY N.Y.

EXCHANGE RATE 1.65 N.Y. FOR 1 ENGLISH POUND

BEST IMPORT ITEM WAS COPPERS

ORDER 1737 ACT REPRINTED 9/15/50 - DISCUSSION IN PRESS TO CHANGE TO 13 SHILLING  
TO STOP IMPORTATION

THEN PHILA. AT 15 TO PA. SHILLING (17% PROFIT) and BOSTON AT 18 TO NEW ENGLAND  
SHILLING (12% PROFIT) WOULD BE BROUGHT TO N.Y.

12/12/1753 ACT IMPORTING COUNTERFEIT COPPER 1/2 OR 1/4 £100 FINE TO INFORMER  
PASSING CTF. KNOWING IT PENALTY 10 TIMES AMT. PASSED. (MELTED - GIVEN TO POOR)  
IF PERSON KEEPS CTF. IN HIS CUSTODY 10 DAYS SAME AS IMPORTING

NO PROHIBITION AGAINST COINING IF NOT KEPT FOR 10 DAYS OR PASSED IN NEW YORK.

HAVE TO BE CAUGHT TWICE

1/11/54 RIOT IN N.Y. WHEN MERCHANTS REFUSED COPPERS. PEOPLE THREW COINS IN STREET  
RATE OF 15 TO SHILLING SET BY MERCHANTS.

MAY 1775 ALL COPPER COINS ORDERED BY ENGLAND WITHHELD FROM AMERICAN SHIPMENT

JUNE 1776 ALL COPPER COIN SUPPRESSED IN N.Y. IN 3 MONTHS.

BRITISH OCCUPIED AND ALL MONEY SUPPRESSED.

1774 COMPILATION HAD 1753 ACT. 1777 N.Y. CONSTITUTION CONTINUED ALL ACTS IN FORCE

1782 COMPILATION FORGOT 1753 ACT

BAILEY & BRASHER PETITIONED 2/12/87

VAN VORHIS & WM. COLEY PETITIONED 2/16/87

MACHIN PETITIONED 3/3/87 ALL MADE SAMPLES

3/15/87 COMMITTEE REPORT ON MINTING COPPER SHOWED IN CIRCULATION

GEORGE II, IRISH, BIRMINGHAM 1/2d "IN IMITATION OF BRITISH HALFPENCE" N.J.

NO MENTION OF NOVAS, CONN., VT., OR EVASIONS

REPORT CONCLUDED THAT EXPENSE OF COINAGE & PROFIT FROM IT IS KEPT A SECRET

BY THOSE WHO KNOW & CONCLUDED THAT THERE MUST BE TOO MUCH PROFIT.

NO FRANCHISE

APRIL 1787 ACT THAT NO COPPERS PASS EXCEPT FULL WEIGHT AFTER 8/1/87

AND 20 TO THE SHILLING. TOOK EFFECT AT ONCE. NO DISTINGUISHING

BETWEEN GENUINE & COUNTERFEIT. THIS DID NOT FOLLOW FEDERAL ORDER

OF 10/16/86 REQUIRING ALL FOREIGN COPPER OUT BY 9/1/87 & ALL STATE

COINAGE 2-1/4 LBS TO \$ WHICH WOULD BE 13 TO THE SHILLING IN N.Y.

1753 ACT REPEALED MARCH 12, 1788



THOMAS MACHIN REMARKABLE MAN

BORN 1744 ENGLAND - CANAL ENGINEER - AMERICA IN 1772  
CELEBRANT AT BOSTON TEA PARTY - WOUNDED AT BUNKER HILL  
ASSIGNED BY WASHINGTON TO HUDSON RIVER PROTECTION UNDER GEORGE CLINTON  
WOUNDED IN FORT MONTGOMERY ARTILLERY BATTLE WITH BRITISH SHIP  
1778 MADE GREAT CHAIN ACROSS HUDSON (WEST POINT AND NEWBURGH MUSEUMS)  
JOINED GEN. JOHN SULLIVAN EXPEDITION AGAINST INDIANS  
1781 TO YORKTOWN - HIT BRITISH SHIP WHILE INSTRUCTING  
1783 - RESIDENCE BEGUN ON 108 ACRE TRACT BOT BY CLINTON IN 1782  
GEORGE CLINTON 18 TERMS GOV. OF N.Y. VICE PRES. U.S. JEFFERSON & MADISON  
CAST DECIDING VOTE AGAINST RENEWAL OF BANK OF U.S.CHARTER 1811  
ADDITIONAL ORANGE LAKE OUTLET MADE. SAW AND COPPER MILL AT JUNCTION  
18 FEET LOWER AND 400 YARDS FROM LAKE



MACHIN MILLS CONTRACT

APRIL 18, 1787. ORIGINAL AT A.N.S.

6 PARTNERS - JAMES F.ATLEE AND SAMUEL ATLEE FURNISH TOOLS

MACHIN FURNISH MILL

GILES, LAWYER, KEEPS BOOKS

ALL FRANCHISES FOR COINAGE FROM U.S. OR ANY STATE

ATLEE & MACHIN TO COMPLETE AND RUN PRODUCTION

DAVID BROOKS PARTNER

NEW CONTRACT 6/7/87 WITH VT. COINERS FOR 8 YRS.

GRIER CASHIER AT RUPPERT, VOORHIS CASHIER AT ORANGE LAKE

WORKS TO BE COMPLETED AT BOTH PLACES

RUPPERT FOR COINING MONEY - MACHINS FOR "THE COINAGE OF MONEY & MANUFACTURING

HARD WARE" MEANING COPPERS LIKE WOODS MONEYS

VIOLATION IF OTHER THAN VERMONT MADE AT RUPPERT

RECORDS USED IN 1845 & 1885, LOST 25 YEARS AGO

CLOSED IN 1789, WHEN COPPERS COLLAPSED. MACHIN MOVED.

NEVER INTERFERED WITH

IN 1864 CAPT. THOMAS MACHIN (SON) SAYS DAD DID NOTHING ILLEGAL

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BUNGTOWN

BUNG MEANS PICKPOCKET

SHAKESPEARE'S HENRY IV. "YOU CUT PURSE RASCALL, YOU FILTHY BUNG".

BRUMMAGEN IS LATIN FOR BIRMINGHAM AND MEANS COUNTERFEIT SINCE 17TH CENTURY

BRUM IS SHORT FOR BRUMMAGEN & IS USED IN ENGLAND AS CTF.

BUNGTOWN IS AMERICAN WORD UNKNOWN IN ENGLAND. USED IN NEW ENGLAND

BECAUSE OF CTF. OF COPPER THE NAME BUNGTOWN WAS GIVEN TO

BARNEYSVILLE, REHOBOTH, MASS. JUST UP RIVER FROM PROVIDENCE

IN 1786 REHOBOTH WAS KNOWN FOR COUNTERFEIT COPPERS

NEWPORT MERCURY OF 8/13/87

"ALL COPPERS BY LAW IN NEW YORK, EXCEPT BUNGTOWNS, ARE FIXED AT

160 FOR A DOLLAR"

SINCE BUNGTOWN MEANT SHAM OR CTF. COPPERS IT WAS BROADENED BY MISUSE TO EVASIONS

CROSBY QUOTED MARIS AS SAYING EVASIONS CIRCULATED IN PA.

S.K. <sup>(GERMAN)</sup> HARZFELD PROMOTED SALE OF EVASIONS IN HIS SALES AS PENNSY COPPERS

WOODWARD SAYS TO HARZFELD GOES CREDIT OF INTRODUCING THIS REMARKABLE SERIES

TO AMERICAN COLLECTORS

ELDER AND CHAPMAN PROMOTED EVASIONS AS PA. COPPERS OR BUNGTOWNS AND THUS

THE MEANING IS LOST

NOW BUNGTOWNS ARE EVASIONS RESULTING IN AN AMERICAN EXPRESSION FOR

IMITATION 1/2D NOW BEING APPLIED TO BRITISH EVASIONS

I QUOTE FROM HAMLET TO ALL WRITERS WHO DESCRIBE EVASIONS AS BUNGTOWNS:

"THIS IS THE VERY COINAGE OF YOUR BRAIN".

FAIRFIELD HOARD

BURIED IN 1789 FOUND IN 1950

8 VERMONTS, 125 CONN., 1 N.Y., 2 VT-BRITANNIA MULLINGS, 7 IRISH HALFPENCE,

17 GEORGE II ENGLISH 1/2D MOST CTF, 29 GEORGE III CTF. OF 1770-5,

3 GEORGE III OF 1776, 13 DATED 1778, 1787 & 1788.

NO NOVAS, NO FARTHING, NO EVASIONS

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MACHIN MILLS COINAGE

BLANKS CUT OUT & SMOOTHED AT NIGHT IN SAND, SAWDUST AND WATER IN ROTATING CYLINDER.

NEWBURGH RESIDENT GOT A PECK OF COPPERS FROM MACHIN TO BUY 2 LBS. OF FLOUR AND WAITED WHILE FLOUR DEALER COUNTED OUT COPPERS.

IDENTIFICATION BY TIE IN TO VT. DIES & PUNCHES & CONTINUE CHAIN INTO CONN. NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, AND FED. PATTERNS (IMMUNE)

IMITATIONS AND MULINGS

PREDATING -- OVERSTRIKING

OTHER SOURCES IN AMERICA OF IMITATIONS MAKES TASK DIFFICULT

BATTY DOES NOT LIST 1778, 1788, 1785, and ONLY 1 OF 7 OF 1787, OR SPEC.1776. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS - DOMED HAIR, CYLINDRICAL CURLS, PERIODS ON BASE LINE, FORKED END OF LOWER RIBBON, SINGLE LEAF HIGHER ON TOP OF WREATH RATHER

THAN 3 LEAVES, CROSS ON SHIELD HAS ONLY SINGLE BANDS, *PUCKERED LIPS,*  
*PUFFY CHEEKS,*  
N.Y. COMMON COUNCIL ORDERED 48 SHILLING IN JULY 1789 BECAUSE OF INFLUX

FROM OTHER STATES --- POOR & SHOPKEEPERS LOADED

CONNECTICUT REPORT SHOWS STOPPAGE IN JUNE 1789

NOT TRUE - NEW RECORDS

ELI LEAVENWORTH MADE FLANS AND STRUCK IN 1788 IN NEW YORK (WHERE?)

SOME COINS SIMILAR TO CONNS. SOME NOT.

GEOR. III - REV. D, 2-D, 16(1)-D



CONCLUSION

UNJUSTLY DENIED STATUS BECAUSE OF CTF. INFERENCE

LEGAL IMITATIONS 1/2D OF MACHINS ARE NEW SERIES OF EARLY AMERICAN COINS

EVASIONS NO LONGER TO BE CALLED BUNGTOWNS

RECLASSIFICATION OF CONN., FED. PATTERNS, VTS, ETC. TO MACHINS

THANKS TO PRIOR WRITERS, RESEARCHERS AND COLLECTORS

THANKS TO WEBBER & TO A.N.S.